

Atty. Docket No. DE920020016US1

Serial No. 10/630,957

REMARKS**Rejection of the Claims**

The examiner rejected claims 1, 18, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Balachandran et al. (US 2003/0149913) in view of U.S. Patent # 5,991,909 Rajski et al.

Claims 2-17, 19-24, and 26-31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have withdrawn the rejected independent claims and have amended the claims as follows: claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of base claim 1; claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of base claim 18; and claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of base claim 25. Some of the remaining claims' dependencies have been amended due to the withdrawn claims. Typos in claims 30 and 31 have also been amended.

Request for Articles

With regard to the Examiner's request for the article by Rajski et al, 1995, and the article by Konemann, 1991, applicants have included these documents with the present amendment.

Applicability of 35 USC 102 (e), (f) and (g) Prior Art

In reference to the examiner's comment about the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e), (f) or (g) prior art under §103, all named inventors on this application were, at the time their respective contributions to this invention were made, subject to an obligation to assign their contribution to a common owner. This assignment was completed as evidenced by the assignment document filed with the present application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants have properly accommodated each of the examiner's grounds for rejecting the independent claims and for objecting to the remaining claims, as explained above. Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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